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IEEE STD IEEE Standard

**1. Planning the future of the World Geodetic System 1984**

True, S.A.;

Position Location and Navigation Symposium, 2004. PLANS 2004  
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## Planning the future of the World Geodetic System 1984

[True, S.A.](#)

Nat. Geospatial- Intelligence Agency, Arnold, MO, USA

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### Abstract

The Department of Defense (DoD) World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) defines a family of global coordinate systems and Earth models that support positioning and navigation. The Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is responsible for insuring that the WGS 84 continues to meet increasing accuracy demands of all its users. Major users include, the Navstar Global Positioning System (GPS), the U.S. DoD, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Despite its name, WGS 84 is not a 20-year old system. Numerous updates have been made to the system and more are planned for the future. Improvements include increasing the accuracy and resolution of the gravity field model, increasing the accuracy and resolution of the gravity field, refining the relationships between WGS 84 and other coordinate systems, and improving the scope and quality of WGS documentation. This paper describes the evolution of the WGS 84 from the early 1980's to the present and describes NGA's plans for the future needs of WGS users.

### Index Terms

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